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## Moonrise over St. Paul's

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## Moonrise Over St. Paul's

Debbie Knubley

We have different moontimes,  
you and I.  
Here, St. Paul's shadow descends  
over white cathedral steps,  
shielding a quiet couple  
from the darkling sky.  
Sitting close,  
they whisper secrets  
that echo "you" from  
the late-night lovers in alleyways,  
who cannot bear to close their eyes  
and say goodnight.  
Their laugh—liquid and low—  
trickles down the stairs  
and gathers in a puddle at my feet.  
They smile their love-sick smile  
with dilated pupils.  
Some say love is blind.

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Through half open eyes,  
I see all twelve hours  
around the world  
to where you are.  
I hunt the setting sun down  
its nightly path around  
the meridian to meet you  
at sunrise, my eyes heavy with sleep.  
One hundred and fifty-one days  
stretch out before me,  
braceleted and white and bare,  
before I can see you again  
and be blind once more.  
Until then I count  
the length of time and miles  
that wraps each thought of you  
in *if only*...  
Moonlight drips off my eyelashes.